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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: C. Phillip Reay et al. Attorney Docket No: ONAD0002

Serial No: 09/336,611 Group Art Unit: 2165

Filed: June 18, 1999 Examiner: Haq, Naeem U.

Title: GENERATING REVENUE FOR THE USE OF SOFTGOODS THAT ARE  
FREELY DISTRIBUTED OVER A NETWORK

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Bellevue, Washington 98004

June 18, 2002

TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE:

In response to the Office Action dated March 4, 2002, applicants request that the above-identified application be amended as set forth below and that the Examiner reconsider the application in view of these amendments and the Remarks that follow. A clean version of the amendments is shown below. A marked-up copy of the amendments follows this response and is entitled MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDMENTS.

CLEAN VERSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

Amendment to the Claims

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 7, 8, and 35 as follows:

1 (Amended) A method for facilitating automated sale of softgoods, comprising the steps of:  
(a) providing a program to a creator of the softgoods that automatically includes a unique identifier in each softgood before the softgood is distributed to prospective purchasers, said unique identifier specifically referencing the creator of the softgoods;  
(b) distributing the softgoods to prospective purchasers, such that the distribution is not limited to a distribution over private networks; and  
(c) providing an agency having a server that implements softgood purchase transactions and maintains a database in which data relating to the sale of softgoods are stored, unique identifiers of the softgoods being referenced in the database to track the softgood purchase transactions, such that for softgoods that are purchased, the database maintains data relating to purchasers of the softgoods for as long as the agency is managing purchases of the softgoods, softgoods that were distributed to the prospective purchasers and then purchased being unchanged as a result of a purchase transaction.

7. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the unique identifier for a softgood is communicated to the agency and entered into the database when the softgood is first purchased.

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